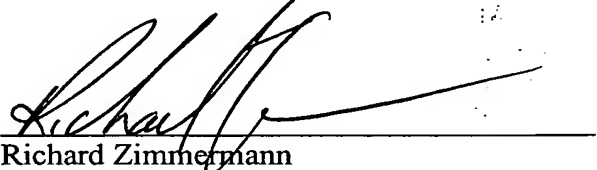


PATENT

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper;

amendments to the abstract begin on page 10 of this paper;

complete listing of claims begins on page 11 of this paper; and

remarks begin on page 17 of this paper.